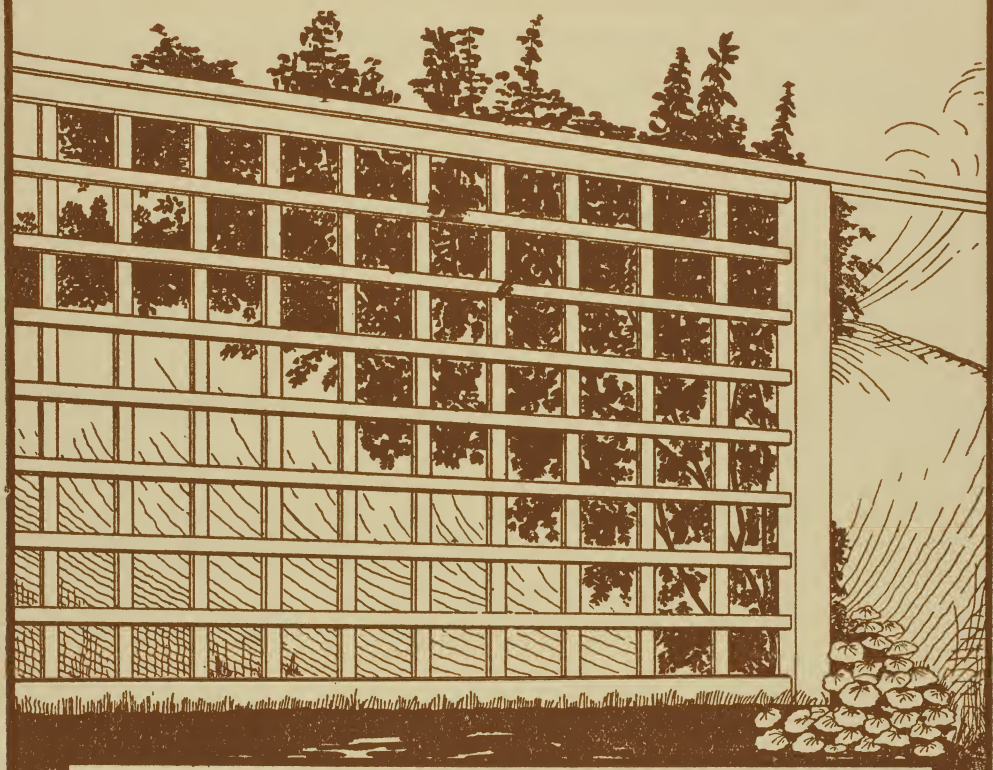
California Garden



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ACACIAS
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THE ROSE
FLORAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
BALBOA PARK, MARCH 18th

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The California Garden

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FLOWERS TO GROW FOR CUTTING

By Alice M. Rainford.

In flower growing for commercial purposes one must realize certain very practical needs as well as the artistic demand.

I have found it more satisfactory to procure flowers from people who specialize in some one or two varieties, and grow a fair quantity, than from those who grow a little of everything. If one needs a steady, though small, income from such a source, it, of course, necessitates careful study to have something always in season.

An average and uniform length of stem is desirable in bunched flowers rather than extra long and then filling up the bunch with short blooms. By the same token, a florist would rather have an ordinary sized flower, than a bunch containing twenty extra big and thirty tiny blooms, as the customer who had the first dozen would be delighted and three others disgusted with what you offered them.

The length of stem depends largely upon the variety of flower grown. What would be a short stem for one sort being long for another.

I have always advised people to plan carefully as to what they would grow. Select something with which you have especial success; something you always have a few weeks in advance of your neighbors, and for which your soil is adapted.

Flowers are more in demand a few weeks in advance of their general season than if grown extremely out of their season. It reminds one of winter hats in summer—how very stylish in autumn, but entirely out of place in July. Chrysanthemums are wonderful a little in advance, but who wants them in June?

By the way, there are lovely tiny pompon chrysanthemums now that are in demand, the smaller the better—white, yellow, bronze, red and shades of pink, both single and double ones. Partial shade, good soil and plenty of water should give a stem sixteen to eighteen inches long. These are put into bunches of twenty-five if the sprays are slender, less if in heavy clusters, and find a good market.

Candytuft in lavender and pink is saleable, and easily grown, but one must usually plant a lot as almost the whole plant is cut at once.

Years ago some one used to market scarlet phlox, but I do not know if it would sell now, as pink, yellow and blue flowers seem to be most popular.

As I remarked before, one is apt to do better by specializing. When late spring arrives I know a man from Kensington Park will soon begin coming three times a week with zinnias. (Regular picking is a good thing for all varieties of flowers.) He is fond of zinnias, gets the best seed, grows a good-sized bed and cuts from one to two hundred flowers at a picking. Soft yellow, buff shades, burnt orange, salmon, old rose and pink are better than magenta and red. More might be disposed of than he brings, but if he tried to do too much, he could not carry through as long a season and could not market without a machine; also the blooms would probably be crushed in packing. He expects to earn only a moderate amount this way. In the spring he will bring Ranunculus in good colors.

For years one woman has grown three shades of sweetpeas for me; no novelties, but I know I can count on her. By the way, she has small cans such as milk and soup cans, and keeps them near when picking, filled with water, and instead of crowding all the cuttings into one bucket, she puts one or two bunches at most into each can.

Stock is good if double and with stems twelve or more inches long. Shades of yellow, pink and lavender are best.

Larkspur in pale blues and pink is good. Some one should grow a good bed of cornflowers, who knows how to have them in December and January. Only good blue is in demand in quantity—the other colors, bright pink and so on in a small way.

Centaurea in lavender, white and yellow, of the Sultana type, are good at any season of the year, though, of course, if a rainy season they are apt to be shabby. These must never be sprinkled or allowed to get damp after picking, as the bloom is spoiled and has the appearance of a wet feather duster.

In general a light sprinkle is desirable in packing flowers for marketing and they should

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always stand in water a while before packing. It is found with most varieties that they cannot be picked soon after the plants have been watered, for if so they do not keep well.

Many flowers are improved by plunging the end of the stem in boiling water. Heliotrope can only be kept by so doing, and it is an advantage to many others. Burning the end of the stem is advisable with fern stems such as adiantum.

Some of the shrubs are well worth while, being ornamental for one's garden and at the same time there is an occasional demand for their blooms. White swainsona is a good flower for cutting, and yellow double jasmine and the white azoricum variety are very desirable. Sprays of yellow forsythia are attractive and there is a need occasionally for a few bunches of bougainvillia lateritia, the terra cotta colored one. Our mountain neighbors at Ramona and Julian send in Lilacs every year now, and snowballs. Perhaps some day some of them will experiment with Lily of the Valley and Paeonies.

Pansies, Forget-me-nots and the various small daisy-like flowers of the aster tribe, brachycombe, etc., are good for small bouquets for the sick room. Cecil Brunner roses, if grown so they can be gathered in bunches with stems five or six inches long, are sold, buds only being desirable, and the clusters are not used for market bunches.

Fruit trees are a fairly good investment if one has plenty of room and can develop a tree with long slender sprays of growth. There are several peaches of ornamental variety as well as those which produce fruit and can spare an occasional branch here and there, without spoiling the crop of fruit. Crab apples are lovely, though for some reason mine have not grown, while my peaches have survived with very little care in an otherwise useless side hill lot.

Plants with variegated foliage, and those that turn lovely autumn tones can be sold at times. The supply of bamboo for decorative purposes is practically nil at present, since the days when Miss Sessions supplied so many of these things for San Diego. We all miss them, for no one else has had the foresight to provide for the future along the line of general decorating material, probably realizing the demand was only occasional and the profit small.

OUR LIBRARY

The Floral Association is very desirous of building up a good reference library at its home in Balboa Park. A small beginning has been made by donation of volumes and several magazines received in exchange with the California Garden, are on file. A great many folks have garden books that they do not use and it is suggested to these that if they do not wish to give them outright they should loan them for the good of the cause and their own soul.

BALBOA PARK NOTES

ACACIAS

(A paper prepared by J. W. Morley for the February Floral Association Meeting.)

The Acacias comprise a very large genus. There are said to be over 400 species, one of the largest known. They are widely distributed both in Asia and America, but a great deal more extensively in the continent of Australia than in any other region.

Acacias belong to the order Leguminosa. While they are not a legume in the sense of the word as are beans, peas, etc., they have seed pods which closely resemble them, and in a general way are termed Leguminosa for that reason. The botanical characteristic will not be touched upon this evening,—the several varieties described will be from the horticultural side only, and the value of each noted from its use as an ornamental tree for planting in our gardens, parks, and for planting as shade trees along our street parkways.

Acacias are also known as Mimosas, and are native of eleven states in the union and not cultivated commercially to my knowledge.

The Australian varieties are those chiefly grown in California, as they are more floriferous and probably stand our climatic conditions better than those from other countries of which they are native.

Acacia Armata is a shrub with ovate, oblong, spiny foliage,—the flowers are borne singly along the branches and produce a very pretty effect. This variety is frequently used for hedges, owing to its spiny character.

A. Albicans,—this variety has flowers that are almost white, in small bunches at the end of the branchlets. It is classed as white in the horticultural dictionaries. Those I have grown were more of a whitish yellow. It may be grown as a shrub or small tree. Thirty years ago this variety was frequently planted in Southern California, but of recent years is seldom grown, as it has never proven of much value in our gardens.

A. Cultriformis,—a very pretty variety that flowers in March and April,—this season it is in flower at the present time, no doubt owing to the warm, dry winter. The foliage is gray, thickly clothing the branches. It may be grown either as a shrub or small tree,—it is very fine grown as a shrub,—may be pruned closely to keep it in shape,—the young growth is very pretty and with the addition of the flowers in spring, is quite effective for general planting.

A. Cyanophylla, (Blue Leaved Watttle), a small tree of pendulous habit, with glaucous colored foliage,—leaves are narrow and from five to seven inches long,—flowers are large, deep golden yellow.

A. Saligna is very similar to the foregoing variety. The foliage, from my observation, is much greener and the natural habit of the tree much better, without the tendency to be straggly, as so frequently happens with Cyanophylla. The flowers are exactly the same in color and when both trees are in bloom, it is hard to distinguish the difference, unless well acquainted with the two varieties. The wood of both varieties is very brittle and the trees should be pruned every season after blooming, otherwise they are liable to split, the limbs break off, especially in stormy weather. I believe these two varieties would have been more extensively planted, had it not been for those characteristics.

A. Dealbata (Silver Wattle), A. Decurrens (Green Wattle) and A. Mollisima (Black Wattle),—these three varieties resemble each other very closely in the habit of growth of the tree and in their foliage,—their season of flowering is different. The A. Dealbata blooms in March and April,— this season it is in bloom at the present time, and the trees in the Park are beautiful. The A. Decurrens blooms in April and May, with pale yellow flowers, and the A. Mollisima in May and June, with very pretty pale yellow flowers.

These three varieties are very fine for avenue planting, provided the parkway is at least five feet wide. They make large, spreading trees and will attain a height of forty to fifty feet. When used for parkway planting, they should be pruned every year soon after the flowering period. In Australia the timber is used for several commercial purposes.

A. Retinoides,—this variety is more commonly known in California as A. Floribunda, owing to its floriferous character, being in bloom more or less the year around. They may be grown either as a shrub or a small tree,—the flowers are a pale yellow,—foliage narrow and varies from two to four inches long. There is a diversity of habit in the growth of this variety, also the color of the foliage,—in some cases the foliage is a glaucous blue, others a deep green, and others a light green. Some of the trees are compact, others tall and scraggly,—however, it is a very useful tree for general landscape effectiveness for park planting.

A. Pycnantha (Golden Wattle), a very beautiful tree when in bloom in March and April, when it produces large clusters of flowers of beautiful bright yellow, the clusters and the individual flowers are larger than any other variety we grow. The tree itself is very brittle, the branches breaking off easily, especially when in bloom and during stormy weather. It should be heavily pruned after blooming to keep it within bounds.

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A. Podalyriaefolia,—a very beautiful, small tree,—glaucous with gray branchlets covered with a soft pubescence,—flowers in December and January,—the flowers are borne at the tips of the branches and branchlets in clusters, and taken together with the beautiful color of the foliage, gives it a handsome and distinctive appearance. This variety deserves to be more universally planted in our gardens.

A. Baileyana, a very beautiful, medium-sized tree,—in bloom during February and March. This variety is one of the best and floriferous of the acacias,—the foliage itself of bluish grey, gives it a distinction and character that is very beautiful, even when the tree is not in bloom, but taken together with the flowers, this tree has a charm that is not produced by any other variety.

In Balboa Park at the present time hundreds of these trees are in full bloom and it is well worth a visit to see the wonderful profusion of bloom that covers the trees this season.

There is a green foliage variety of this tree which is equally as effective in bloom, but not so pretty the remainder of the year. There are about fifty of this type planted in Balboa Park.

A. Verticillata, a more or less shrubby variety with long branches and very narrow foliage of a very pretty green color and rather prickly. This variety is used chiefly for large groupings and is very effective in Park planting in masses. It blooms in March and April and is not so floriferous as many varieties.

A. Elata, a very beautiful tree when it thrives,—it has pale yellow flowers,—blooms in midsummer,—has very beautiful compound leaved dark green foliage. In its native habitat, it grows in shaded ravines, and in Australia, the tree is used for the tannic acid. A few of these trees are growing in Balboa Park.

A. Latifolia,—this variety is not classified in any horticultural works under this name. It has been more extensively planted in California than any other variety for park planting and on large estates. It is said the true name is Longifolia, however, I must admit that the variety Longifolia that I have grown, and A. Latifolia are quite different in their habits of growth. A. Latifolia has heavier and shorter leaves and larger flowers of a deeper yellow than the A. Longifolia, and is much better for mass plantings on large areas, —the spikes of flowers are borne along the branches the same as the Longifolia and are much more effective in color and quality of bloom.

There are several acacias that are classed as garden hybrids and probably A. Latifolia is one of them,—if so, it is a fine addition to our flora.

A. Melanoxylon (Blackwood Acacia), a very fine tree of pyramidal form, used more in Southern California for parkway planting than any other tree,—it will stand more pruning than any other variety and may be trimmed to any desired shape.

The trees that are growing along the avenues of the former Exposition Grounds that have been held in control by trimming, have been the pattern of thousands of others, both in San Diego and other parts of California.

This acacia blooms in March and April,—the flowers are very pale yellow. It is not for its flowers that it is noted, but for its timber, which is as fine as oak and walnut. In Australia it is used for shipbuilding, furniture and for other purposes that a high grade timber is used, and is one of the most useful of trees in its native country.

A. Pravissima,—a small tree with pendulous finger-like branchlets,—a very graceful and showy species with short, angular foliage, flowering in February and March. Several trees are growing near the aviary on the west side of Balboa Park.

MUM SALE MARCH FIFTH, FLORAL HOME, BALBOA PARK.

THE LOWLY GERANIUM

Lo, the poor Geranium, with its untutored mind,
Grows in any kind of soil and braves the desert wind.
It does not fret at lack of care; in spite of drouth and dust,
It smiles alike, with cheerful air, on just and the unjust.
It trys to show the tourist-folk what wonders it can do,
And covers tiny bungalows with blows of vivid hue.
"How curious! That cypress tree is bearing scarlet flowers!"
"It's just an old geranium, we'd dig it out, if ours;
It's such a very common plant, and gets so shabby, too.
A tiresome thing because, you see, it blooms the whole year through."

You dig the bloomin' nuisance up with maliced pick prepense,
And toss, with scorn and slighting word, the carcase o'er the fence.
Carted off onto the dump, you think it dead and gone,
But there, with roots up in the air, it blossoms on, and on.
For courage bold, and cheerfulness, for patient constancy,
In spite of adverse circumstance, and critic's calumny,
Determined always, everywhere, to make the world more bright,
The shabby old Geranium beats others out of sight.
So we wear it as a boutonniere, and show our lack of sense
By growing red Geraniums along our garden fence.

E. S. R.

The Feb. & Mch. Gardens

THE FLOWER GARDEN

By a poor substitute for Mary A. Matthews.

The above heading is correct, therefore I shall not attempt to fill in advice about what to plant and how, but shall deal with the subject of care of the garden generally.

We face a dry year even if the normal amount of rain from now on falls, for it is not possible to supply, except by irrigation and then but feebly, the shortage of reserve there should be in the soil at this time. Faith is a good thing for one's soul, but this year a poor substitute for action in the matter of moisture.

The city has ample water stored for all uses for four years. There have never been four years without considerable runoff into the reservoirs, even this year of eternal sunshine has given within some three billions of gallons of the amount drawn out, so it seems fair to assume that a sane conservative use of water for garden purposes will be permitted. It is for us to realize what a sane conservative use means. In the first place the taking care of what we have rather than the extension of operations. Though this might be taken to mean not to plant anything more, it does not, it applies to area rather than things growing in it. We should make the most of our ground. Sprinkling either by hand or machinery is the most wasteful method of applying water yet devised and very inefficient. It has developed largely from our gardening on the level or worse on slopes. There is no argument that beds and lawns all on the same level is the simplest way to treat a garden and it came to California together with a host of other absurd practices from various lands all differing widely from us in climate, etc. Our main requirements during our long dry summers are to wet and keep cool our soil. Please notice it is KEEP, not to wet and then let dry and wet again. We have to supply enough water at one time to reach below the roots of our plants, there is no moisture below rising to meet that which we put on the top. Our orchards are watered by means of flooding several inches at a time in squares or through parallel furrows down which streams flow slowly. In our gardens, however, it is urksome and unsightly to either block out in squares or furrow every time moisture must be employed and then level everything again. Reason seems to call for the sinking of the garden beds below the

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THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

As the rain has not yet arrived, it is very encouraging to read in the local papers that we have enough water stored in our reservoirs to last us for four years, and this assertion comes from the man best qualified to know. So the situation might be very much worse than it is, and for those of you who have been using water in sufficient quantity to make up for the three or four soaking rains we should have had before this, the mere dryness of soil will be a minus quantity, although, of course, you have been unable to supply the damp growing atmosphere and other conditions that accompany nature's irrigation, and consequently lack of full growth of flowers and vegetables. But probably most of us, naturally think that rain would come almost any time, have not watered thoroughly, so that if we expect any success at all in the garden we must get busy at once and give the ground a thorough soaking, followed as soon as the soil works nicely by a thorough cultivation.

If you use manure now use sheep or finely pulverized cow manure, unless you use it as a mulch on the surface of the ground, in which case well rotted stable manure or the coarser cow manure will be all right. The surface mulch is very valuable to conserve moisture and prevent baking, and can be used to great advantage in either the flower or vegetable garden, provided you made proper allowance for the extra amount of water necessary to soak through the mulch before it reaches the ground.

The list of seeds and plants that can now be used in the vegetable garden are pretty much the same as those recommended for last month.

Green Globe Artichoke and Asparagus roots of Palmetto variety, Rhubarb roots well mulched with well rotted manure and planted three or four feet apart. Get your strawberry bed planted now as the season is advancing for these berries. Get in another planting of peas so that you can pick before summer weather; Laxtonian is the quickest, Senator and Stratagem being a little slower, but all three varieties are good. Plant a few more potatoes and set out a few good herb plants; they are such a wonderful help to the housekeeper in cooking a palatable meal. Plant onion seeds and sets and if you want to be

Continued on page 12

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EDITORIAL

In the lecture given by Mr. J. W. Elliot, in the Floral Home, this month, nothing struck us with quite the force of his account of the Englishman, William Robinson, left during the war, with hundreds of acres in garden, to be tended with a youth of seventeen and a few very old women, and yet with small exceptions this tremendous area came through those years of stress practically unharmed. The secret, gardening NATURALLY. This was in England, of course, but Nature gardens everywhere, nowhere more colorfully than in California. But this great State has been settled in the last few years by people from everywhere else, who have come to bathe in her sunshine, and in return have grafted upon her a bit of every kind of garden except her own. More than seventy-five per cent of the gardens of California have not a California flower growing in them.

This season of perfect summer in winter time, without rain or cloud or cold is periodic, as records show, even though the time they cover is so short, seventy years. Here at the end of February, when normally our hills are covered with shooting stars and yellow violets there is not one, perhaps there won't be one, but they will be there again next year, they have had to lay over a season before; but what would become of our gardens if they went a year wtihout water?

We could almost rejoice in a dry year if it turned our people towards our native growths. We can hear hundreds of comments on how they all have tried California shrubs and trees and they died. We have done so also and know that they died because we were not Californian also, and could not believe that they liked dry, perfectly dry summers, when they rested as things do in less favored lands when everything freezes up tight.

There is no reason to suppose that the climate of California has materially changed in a hundred thousand years, frequent statements to the contrary notwithstanding, and this year of no rain disposes of the short argument so often put forward that settling a country changes its climate. To anticipate possible objections to this view we state, that only the scientist who deals with far back ages can hazard an opinion, and he would think our term of a hundred thousand years a geological day. If climates change, as they do, the process is too slow for any purpose of floriculture and that process is so gradual as to be unmarked.

This challenge to the man, who thinks his fig tree modifies the climate of his district, is made so that we can state that the native growths must be the selection of the fittest over an immense time, although introductions comparatively recent, that like conditions, tend to naturalize with great rapidity, examples are the Tobacco tree and the poverty grass that is running out our native forage plants in our overstocked mountains. These upset a certain balance that nature unadulterated maintains.

Failures with native stuff are mostly traceable to mixing it with foreigners. The native stuff wants the California conditions, the foreigner finds them sudden death. It takes courage to plant just a California garden and we have met with but one near example, that of Charles Francis Saunders at Pasadena, and he confessed that his friends laughed at his, but he can go away for months in the summer collecting material for his delightful books and his garden is all there when he comes back. In spite of this most everyone has seen bits of California nature gardening that were good enough for them.

The California Garden has preached this gospel of California Gardens for Californian plants a long time and will continue to do so, but it is almost ready to compromise on the backyard for this native spot. Let our front gardens, which we plant and tend more for our neighbors and the passer by than for ourselves, have all that we think a garden must have, roses and stocks and shrubs and bulbs from all over the world, except California, and GRASS, the bluegrass of old Kentucky, upon which the Bermuda sneaks overnight and takes it by the throat, the Grass, to tend which we sit watching a clock and changing the sprinkler every twenty minutes, the grass that in a year is everything but grass. Then in the backyard let us put the natives the Rhus and the Ceanothus, the Christmas berry which responds wonderfully to a little care and protection from wild things on all multiples of feet, the flowers and the bulbs and the vines, a Yucca or so, the Pride of California pea and have you forgotten that the Cypress

is a native. If we could go back to the times of short pants and socks what a playhouse we could make under a scrub oak and how we should smell after briganding all day in the aromatic shrubbery of California.

Is there any one who can explain why the cutting up of acreage into lots compels the removal of all the native shrubbery? Why does a realtor get rabid at the sight of chaparral? It seems not to matter that the ground is already reasonably level and the brush too low to interfere with surveying, the subdivider must scrape the surface bare, so bare that it is indecent. We wish we had the means to buy a wild tract and cut it up without cutting it down and see whether purchasers could be found who liked their lots already planted by God.

GIFT OF LAND FOR SHASTA NATIONAL FOREST ACCEPTED

A tract of land situated within the Shasta National Forest of California and owned by Miss Mary Burt Brittan, of San Francisco, has been given to the Federal Government and accepted by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace under authority given by Congress. It will form a part of the Shasta Forest.

The tract involved comprises 300 acres and was a favorite camping place of Miss Brittan's brother, Judge William Giles Brittan, now deceased. Notwithstanding the land's high market value, Miss Brittan preferred to donate it to the National forest system for public use as a memorial to her brother.

The Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture plans to make the donated tract attractive to campers and will encourage its use for all recreational purposes to carry out the wishes of the donor. Castle Lake, a good sized body of water, is located within the donated area and adds greatly to its recreational value. One of the prettiest views obtainable of Mount Shasta, about 15 miles away, can be had from the shores of this lake.

CHRYSANTHEMUM SALE

On March fifth at the Floral Home, Balboa Park, there will be held a sale of Mum plants the proceeds to go towards procuring a suitable name plate for the building. For garden purposes the offshoots at the base of plants are perfectly good and any one having such to spare is urged to bring.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Rainfall Averages Same Every Twenty-Year Period.

By CARROLL DE WILTON SCOTT, Supervisor of Geography, San Diego City Schools.

This seems to be a good year to learn something of the weather. It is certainly a year full of weather lore and predictions. First, George McEwen told us back in October we were going to have a dry winter and gave us the plain facts and reasons. With consistent scientific modesty he has not said, "I told you so." But others seem to think it necessary to bolster up our spirits by assuring us that we will have rain anyway. Ford Carpenter showed us how many wet Februaries we have had in the past and Henry Cooper goes merrily on predicting as though 1924 were one of these wet Februaries.

Now suppose we stop kidding ourselves and try to be grown up. Our state of mind has a great deal to do with human nature, but in the realm of physical nature optimism and pessimism are one and the same. The Creator goes about his infinite business with absolute impartiality according to eternal laws. It doesn't make any difference in the weather whether we hope or pray, snarl, weep or predict. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the weather at present is absolutely beyond our control.

But it is to our distinct advantage to know what the facts and the truth are about the weather. Inadequate knowledge of San Diego weather may mean personal or municipal disaster. Consider the rainfall record for San Diego city since 1850. The average for all these years is 9.7 inches, with larger figures for the back country as elevation increases. The average for the last 20 years is 10 inches; the next two decades the same; the next 20-year period, 9.5. Though individual years vary as much as 25.9 and 3.7 inches there is a consistent uniformity through long periods. What does this mean? It means we get just so much rain in this country in a 20-year period, and no more.

Another plain truth discerned from our 74-year record is this: When we get one or more years above the normal we are as sure to get one or more years below normal as day follows night. It is useless to say how much rain we might get since no two seasons are alike. The question is what are we likely to get. True, March is one of our rainy winter months—so is February. But 32 Marches have marched by with less than an inch—as many as seven in succession. It often rains in April, but our chances for receiving an inch in April are one in 4.6 years. Seasons of liberal or excessive rainfall must be followed by seasons of deficient rainfall for our climate is governed by laws and we haven't the slightest basis for thinking that San Diego climate or climate elsewhere on the globe will change perceptibly for a thousand years.

A glance at the appended table will show excessive rainfall is leveled up by deficient rainfall. The table shows the figures for the six wettest seasons in our history. In every case the wet years were preceded and followed by one or more years of rainfall below normal:

1861-2—15.64 inches. Preceded by 7.90 inches. Followed by 3.87 inches.

1873-4—16.88 inches. Preceded by 6.50 inches. Followed by 5.75 inches.

1877-8—16.10 inches. Preceded by 3.75 inches. Followed by 7.88 inches.

1883-4—25.97 inches. Preceded by 4.92 inches. Followed by 8.67 inches.

1885-6—16.96 inches. Preceded by 8.67 inches. Followed by 8.32 inches.

1921-2—18.65 inches. Preceded by 7.08 inches. Followed by 6.36 inches.

Two of these seasons furnish our records for minimum rainfall. Average these 18 seasons and you get 10 inches—again showing wonderful uniformity in spite of the extremes of individual variation. Now in the past we have had three, four, even five consecutive seasons below normal and 14 years or about one in every five with less than six inches. What has happened will happen any time again.

Isn't it time we ceased our childish discrediting of science, which Edwin Slossen told us a few weeks ago is a part of our mental slump after the war. We do some of it in fun. We say, "Oh Cooper hits it about as often as the weather man." Think what it means to insult our government weather service based on the highest science of our minds! Of course the weather observer makes a mistake now and then. Only God has perfect knowledge. But every other scientific man does the same. Sometimes through an engineer's mistake a skyscraper or a bridge collapses. Sometimes a surgeon makes the wrong diagnosis and we pay for it with gold and life blood. But you wouldn't trust your money or your life to a guesser. You know that 99 times cut of 100 you can trust science. The mistakes of science are in the right direction—in the direction of guessers are on a par with the antics of medicine men.

Fellow citizens, the author spends his time in the city schools trying to teach your children the truth about nature and science, including weather. Please back him up by having faith in the principles upon which our very lives and civilization rest. Let's get behind our United States Weather Bureau, which costs us $2,000,000 a year and saves $1,000,000,000 and make it unprofitable for weather prophets and rain-makers who represent the childhood of the race.—San Diego Union.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

OUR WATER SUPPLY

The following is an excerpt from the San Diego Union of February 14th and it is published because it should be most cheering to all gardeners and should dispose of the question of whether the gardens of San Diego can be watered if the present seasonal shortage in rainfall continues. If you have the price you should be able to get the water for in excess of four years' supply seems to be basking in the sun in the mountains.

Continued dry weather in San Diego county and all Southern California has caused great anxiety among ranchers and cattlemen, but no alarm is felt in San Diego in regard to the municipal water supply. With 37,901,436,000 gallons of fine mountain water impounded in the various city reservoirs, the city is not only safe for the present, but could succesfully face a dry period of several years, which, of course, is considered improbable.

Because of heavy rains during the spring and summer months of 1923, the city today has within 2,000,000,000 gallons of its supply a year ago at this time.

CONSUMPTION LAST YEAR

During the year 1923 the entire consumption of city water by municipal users in San Diego and Coronado was 4,443,345,379 gallons. During the same period just 5,173,-593,000 was lost by evaporation. However, the runoff was 8,228,229,000, almost as much as was used and evaporated.

In addition to the large quantity of water now impounded, the city has a contract to take 2,000,000 gallons a day from Lake Hodges. Moreover, about 5,000,000 gallons a day can be pumped from the San Diego river in Mission valley, whenever needed. There is little likelihood, however, of any necessity for pumping, unless there should be several dry years in a row. San Diego is much better off than Los Angeles and some other California cities, where a water shortage is being threatened.

DAILY AVERAGE FOR MONTH

The consumption ofwater in January of this year was 296,121,635 gallons, a daily average of 9,565,197 gallons. The water storage on Feb. 1 of this year was distributed as follows:

Morena	10,065,600,000
Barrett	10,446,600,000
Lower Otay	16,699,800,000
Upper Otay	598,733,000
Chollas	90,703,000

At the water department yesterday the figures showed that the monthly consumption of water in 1923 was as follows:

January	318,885,060
February	253,214,930
March	333,449,383
April	305,681,690
May	452,788,061
June	446,936,821
July	452,647,017
August	451,105,935
September	401,789,734
October	368,660,002
November	361,146,770
December	297,059,893

The city system is still capable of holding about 12,000,000,000 gallons, most of which could be placed in Morena, the height of which dam has been raised. Pine creek is still running slightly into Barrett, and the surrounding ground is well soaked. Good rains in March and April probably would fill the system.

SEED AS PREMIUM WITH THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Miss Moulds Special Dahlia Seed

Miss Mould has again saved seed from her best blooms and offers it as a premium with California Garden. Not only does she thus handsomely exhibit her deep interest in the San Diego Floral Association but in addition offers two handsome sterling silver basket vases to be put up for the best bloom grown from her seed and the best collection grown from her seed, the competition to be staged at the special Dahlia show which will be held at the most favorable date in the Floral Home Balboa Park. This competition is open to blooms grown from Miss Moulds seed in previous years as well as this one.

GET READY FOR THE ROSE SHOW.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

UNCERTAIN RETURN TO PLANT BREEDERS RETARDS ENRICHMENT OF OUR AGRICULTURE

The small and uncertain rewards which come to plant breeders, often after a lifetime of arduous work, is the greatest factor in retarding the development of our cultivated plants today, says David Fairchild, in charge of agricultural exploration for the United States Department of Agriculture. The department is continually bringing in new plants and seeds from all parts of the world, growing them in trial gardens, and distributing the surplus of promising kinds to thousands of amateur plant breeders in all parts of the country, but there are too few skilful breeders to carry on the work at the rate which its importance demands.

"As we look over the long list of plant immigrants," says Dr. Fairchild, "we are struck with the fact that most of them will need a long period of acclimatization and many of them will need to be bred with those varieties which we already have before they will prove their full value to the country. Just as the human immigrants which arrive at Ellis Island are amalgamating slowly but surely with the descendants of those who came years ago, so these plant immigrants, many of them at least, will be known by the particular characters which they have contributed to the cultivated plants already here; for like all other living things, the cultivated plants on which we subsist are continually changing under the hands of the plant breeders and through the unconscious process of selection which is always going on. The fact that these plants which are introduced need to be selected and bred simply emphasizes the lamentable circumstance that there are too few plant breeders in America and too little encouragement is given to those few to carry on the painstaking long-time work of breeding and selecting plants.

"The general public has scarcely begun to realize the self-sacrifice and lifelong devotion to its study which the successful plant breeder must give to any plant before he brings about any permanent improvement in it or the ease with which years of effort may be wiped out in a single season of unfortunate occurrences. Neither has the public appreciated that the emoluments which come to the plant breeder are rarely sufficient to cover even the expenses of cultivation and the care the plants have required. It is this condition more than any other which is retarding the development of our cultivated plants today."

OPEN DAY AT THE FLORAL HOME

The Floral Home in Balboa Park is now open every Thursday, two to four, and visitors are welcome to come with their garden troubles and consult the books and periodicals on file.

BORDEAUX SPRAY SUPERIOR FOR BROWN ROT

Bordeaux mixture has proved the best spray for the control of brown rot, and while at this time the data are incomplete, the figures indicate that a spray of greater strength, say 8-8-50, is more effective than one of the standard 4-4-50 strength, according to the report for 1922-23 of Director B. H. Crocheron of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service.

The farm advisor in San Benito County has lately demonstrated the effect of a Bordeaux spray (5-5-50) as compared with oil emulsion (33-200) and lime-sulfur and oil emulsion treatments resulted in partial control but caused undue burning and arrested bud development with consequent decreased yields. The Bordeaux spray plot produced 65 lbs. of fruit per tree as against 6.2 lbs. for the unsprayed trees, or an estimated increase of $217 an acre.

In Monterey County the farm advisor arranged recently for 11 brown rot control demonstrations which were carefully planned and carried out. The results were thoroughly reliable, and indicate that (1) a dormant spray of oil emulsion or Bordeaux mixture has a controlling effect on brown rot; (2) Bordeaux mixture (5-5-50) gives good control, especially when applied twice during the blooming period; (3) a 95 per cent control is accomplished where Bordeaux mixture is applied at the one-fifth and one-half stages of bloom; (4) an application of Bordeaux dust effects no control.

GET READY FOR THE ROSE SHOW.

SALIENT FEATURES OF NEXT MONTH'S WEATHER

By Dean Blake, Meteorologist, Weather Bureau.

March weather does not differ in the main from that of February. There is a gradual increase in temperature from week to week, which, although slight, is most noticeable in the daily minimum. While frost is not common, yet it frequently forms in exposed places within the city limits, but danger from a serious freeze in the citrus districts is over. The freezing point is reached only two or three times in the valleys back from the coast.

Since the establishment of the station in 1872, there has not been a March without some rain. The least, however, was 0.02 inches in 1887; the most, 6.23 inches in 1883. Precipitation in the county is more than often attended by strong winds from the southern quadrant which at times continue for several days.

An increase in coldiness, and a decrease in sunshine percentage may be expected, although no decided change from the preceding month in the average number of clear or cloudy days is indicated.

THE ROSE AND THE SEASON

There is no reason why this season should not give us just as good if not better quality roses than usual provided we are willing to accept a less number.

This is written for the ones who think of the rose as quality rather than quantity, the two seldom go together.

It is presumed that pruning has been done, if not it were better to do it this late rather than not at all. Make it severe, save only vigorous wood, that which has matured nicely, not the big young shoots that are most pith. When you are through, your bush should look like the bushes you buy at the nursery. It is only fair to say that there are some perfectly good nursery folks in San Diego who boldly proclaim that we cut our roses too severely but Benard of Mission Valley, who sucked his first bottle of milk through a rose tube, shakes his head and says, "No, but we do cut them wrongly," so he brought some specimens to the Floral Meeting in January and cut them there, and while doing so he said. First, have a sharp knife, I do not approve of pruning shears, they bruise and crush the stem and to this cause may be ascribed the frequent dying back for two or three buds of freshly prnned stock. Cut on a slant above an eye pointing in the right direction, if a weedy grower, like Mamam Cochet, take an inside bud, if an upright like Juliet, chose an outside one. The weaker the growth the more necessity for cutting. Too much pruning on a very vigorous bush is apt to encourage wood rather than bloom. The small growths low down are no good, take them off right to the main stem. Pruning is done on roses because they bloom on new growth not on old. Much more of interest came from Benard, including a plea for the planting of old favorites, notably Climbing Papa Gontier, but there is not space for all of it.

Returning to the qeustion of too much or too little pruning. The writer has standard General McArthur budded on Rosa Canina in 1911. The year of the Exposition, 1915, E. G. Hill, the originator of this rose, saw them and pronounced them finer than he had ever grown them and this year they promise to be just as good, but, and this is the point, they are no bigger now than when Mr. Hill viewed them. There is one exception to that statement and that is the trunks, for they are no longer just stems, are very much larger and the branches spring from a ball as big as two fists at the top of this stem. Every year new stems from this ball have been selected and the others removed completely. When pruned this year they had not a leaf or soft wood or very old wood left and to this system is ascribed their long and vigorous life.

Severe pruning also assists at a thorough spraying with Bordeaux mixture while in this denuded state so that all parts of the bush can be completely covered.

This brings us to a vital question of the moment, MILDEW. Mildew is a dry year complaint, it has nothing to do apparently with damp, in fact thirsty plants of almost any kind will mildew in summer, dahlias, for instance, that hardly ever show it when growing vigorously. Therefore the first thing is that roses must have water, not just on the top but way down below the roots. There is no cure for mildew, just preventive measures. Sulphur has been the most successful combatant. Used dry upon wet foliage, wet as Lime Sulphur spray and in a solution of plain sulphuric acid. The last is greatly recommended from England and the formula is one part of acid to fifteen hundred parts of water, which formula is easily computed by making a solution of one ounce of acid to a pint of water and then using one ounce of this mixture to a gallon of water, it does not mar the foliage as do the others. It should be remembered that it is the sulphur fumes that do the trick so it is best applied on a warm day. The schedule recommended is to use the full proportion of Bordeaux, eleven to one, in the dormant stage, to be followed by the sulphuric acid solution every three weeks or sooner if mildew shows.

The Show will be in April and in connection with that event comes the matter of fewer and better roses. When rose bushes become active after pruning, they start many more buds than can mature good blooms. In many places three buds crowd out of the same hole, of these two should be removed by rubbing off, the center one is apt to be the strongest, but one of the others may be pointing in a more desirable direction. Many buds will be found that must crowd others and should be removed. The shape of the bush can be better controlled by this selection of buds than by pruning. This rubbing off of buds is the first step towards good blooms after pruning; later will come disbudding when the bloom buds form. There is a little confusion in the use of the term bud, but any interested reader will easily separate the shoot bud from the bloom bud.

The aphis may be expected to appear very shortly, his worst medicine is black leaf forty, used according to directions and a nimble finger and thumb.

There need be no hesitation about putting in new roses, for the conditions now are what they have been all winer (is it not to laugh) but see they go in moist and don't dry out afterwards.

MUM SALE MARCH FIFTH, FLORAL HOME, BALBOA PARK.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

FLOWER GARDEN

Con'd from Pge. 5

level of the paths, where they are small, and the subdivision of them where large by-cross banks into depressions of a size that will fill readily from the hose. In order to get away from the tedious process of cultivation after every watering, rendered necessary by the action of the hot sun on the wet ground, a mulch of some fibrous material is indicated, and because of its fertilizing value as well, coarse manure seems desirable. This mulch must be thick enough to cover the ground at least three inches deep, it must cover all the ground and as it consolidates it should be replaced to maintain this depth. This manure is not always available, so it is well to consider substitutes. Fine leaves are admirable, even the shedding from cypress trees is useful, and hay might be used, alfalfa for instance, if chopped up. This latter, however, is apt to be in a short time nothing but coarse sticks that lie too loosely to do the job well. Lawn clipping are not good, if applied thick enough they heat, and tend to form in cakes. If this sunken mulched bed be used a good watering ought to last two weeks in the hottest time even for annuals and three weeks for deeper rooted things.

I hope I have made myself clear, the principle must be, and in this country of delightful diversity, in everything but dryness just now, detail of application must differ.

I have said that conservation might mean more instead of less planting. Take a rose bed which is usually wet and cultivated, and wet and etc., ad nauseam. Roses want, to quote Dean Hole of enduring fame, a warm head and cool feet. Under this eternal exposure of the soil to the depth of cultivation, in which doing much moisture must be lost, the feet of the rose must be awful deep not to sweat. If the bed be sunken a cover crop of some annual may supplement the shade of the mulch. The color of the rose should have a bit to do with the selection of this cover crop. Say we have General McArthur, still much our best red, Lobelia would be stunning, the one with the white eye in preference. The Sweet Alyssums, Single Petunias, things of low growth and fairly abundant foliage, Mignonette, Calendulas, Verbenas, Dwarf Calliopsis, French Marigold, Dwarf Nasturtium, etc., etc. I cannot recommend For-get-me-not, it has no sense of a fifty-fifty mode of life and will with its tremendous root system hog everything.

The one main and first thing is to get fixed in your mind that your garden is darned thirsty right now when it ought to be standing in water, therefore wet it down thoroughly three feet and don't think you are saving water by daily laying the dust on the top of your garden with the evening sprinkle, you are wasting it.

There is a possibility that in the larger places some portions must be let go, those parts that have in normal years gone along on the rainfall. Where this seems inevitable select the part to be sacrificed. Though this bald statement seems almost cruel as is the possible necessity, it may well be a blessing in disguise. The writer knows few places that would not benefit by a complete replanting in spots. Find those spots and save water.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Continued from page 5

immune of all the physical ills, plant a few garlic sets, provided your wife also likes garlic, and you both agree to be "not at home" to your friends for a day or two whenever you partake of this delicious (?) vegetable!

It is almost time to plant a few beans for first crop, the good old Kentucky Wonder is one of the best pole beans and Burpee's Stringless for bush. By the end of the month set out tomato and pepper plants. The Farm Bureau and Horticultural Commission are strongly endorsing a Blight Resistant Tomato seed this year, which has proven itself under expert observation to be about eighty-five per cent blight resistant. You know how often when your tomato plants had just reached the stage when you felt sure of a nice crop, they would suddenly assume a sort of purple shade, dry up and wither away. Well that is the condition that is overcome by this Blight Resistant Seed. The type offered is the Improved Stone type and it should be a valuable addition to the home gardener and market gardener.

Sweet corn can also go in now. For early plant Adams' corn, followed by Golden Bantam and Oregon Evergreen.

Hurry up and finish spraying your peach trees with Lime and Sulphur Solution, one to eleven parts water if buds are not yet open, if open be careful and make application much weaker, the right proportion for leaf spraying being one to forty parts water.

Get everything in the garden in ship shape so as to take advantage of the fine March rains that will soon be here!

DON'T YOU WANT SOME OF MISS MOULD'S DAHLIA SEED.

Notice.

Mrs. Herbert Evans will give a Garden Party at her home the latter part of March or the first of April. Watch for further announcement in the newspapers.

GET READY FOR THE ROSE SHOW.

THE LATHHOUSE

By Alfred D. Robinson.

Whether or not the rains for the next two months come according to the hopes of all of us, and the predictions of a few bold prophets, the fact remains that the dry warm period of January and February, the driest and warmest in the thirty-six years' experience of the writer, has induced the lathhouse people to get busy weeks ahead of schedule. Begonias, Verschafelti and Edmondsi are in bud and before this is printed will be in bloom, tuberous kinds are shooting, Rexes are making new plush leaves, etc., ets. The spring work must therefore be done right away.

I regard the first and most important move as the removal of all fronds from the ferns, with the exception of the tree ferns and probably they would be benefitted, the object of this is to control fern scale, and in order to make it easier for those who hate to cut anything till it shows signs of decay, it may be said that fronds mature now will be old and seedy before the lathhouse really begins to be at its best. It is also the appointed time to move any ferns, the begonias can wait a while yet as they have to be growing strongly and continuously when moved.

Along with this defronding of ferns comes the removal of any dead growths on other things and the pruning of the begonias, especially the tall ones. In previous years it has been pointed out that the tall begonias benefit from considerable pruning. It encourages side shoots and new shoots from the roots. As a general guide to this pruning the spent growths are apt to be dark colored and show a tendency to be hard wooded instead of green and very full of life. There is no object in growing plants spindly to the top of a lathhouse, so those near the top should be pruned back, this applies to so-called tree begonias, the Coralline Lucene and the Rubras are apt to be the tallest. Though Odorata Alba will in time grow twenty feet it has the branching habit and requires shortening of these laterals more than topping, however, each year-old wood should be removed right to the ground, not all the old wood but that showing signs of failing. Robusta and Nitida and that type require severe treatment. They can hardly be over-pruned though Sylvia can be let alone. A certain Begonia sense develops with working with these plants and it is a safer guide than a hard and fast rule.

One of the chief reasons for this cleaning out is to make room for the spring renovation. For the hundredth time I want to emphasize that begonias grow up not down, that is new roots are made above the old ones, and therefore there should be no digging and turning of the soil like in a rosebed, for instance, a mild stirring by inserting a fork and shaking a little is sufficient, more is harmful. After removing all weeds, etc., dead leaves are useful and should be left. I carefully sweep up all my wistaria leaves and throw them on the beds, put on the top of the ground a dressing two to three niches deep. An ideal dressing would be one of half leaf mould a quarter cow fertilizer and a quarter of good loam well mixed, the cow fertilizer need not be old and dried up. The absence of sand in this mixture may be noticed. It is only needed in our stiffer grounds for we cannot get either loam or leaf mould without a big percentage of sand. Bryant Williams of Santa Ysabel brought me a satisfactory leaf mould, this is not an advertisement but a fact, for the benefit of those needing considerable quantity, for in these days of universal auto ownership a few bags is possible to any one who will take the trouble to get it. The addition to this mixture of a sprinkling of bone meal is good and safe. Now don't try and turn this dressing under.

I am trying to wet my lathhouse down at least three feet and praying that I can pay the water bill, for no amount of water later will do the job of proper moisture now. Everything is looking for moisture to start the season's growth and discouragement now can never be overcome.

I have before talked of pruning the wistaria, if not done get busy and don't let it crowd. The blooms come best on the bunchy small growths, the runners are good only for more vine though some blooms come upon them. Be sure that in the neighborhood of the wistaria the ground is thoroughly wet.

Tuberous begonias are beginning to shoot. They are among the most amiable of growths and can be left in the flats where they have started till the shoots are two or three inches long and, by the way, if you want to make cuttings these shoots can be removed and potted in sand when they will root readily, if not kept too wet, and in a warm, not hot, position.

Chinese Wilson's article in the last Garden Magazine has a good deal to say about the tuberous begonias from which I make the following extract: "The most important garden plant we owe to South America is the Begonia. The genus itself is universally distributed in the tropical and warm temperate regions of the earth, but from the Andes came the species from which have been evolved that most popular section known to gardeners as Tuberous-rooted Begonias. The story of the production of this valuable race is a fascinating one but too long to be told in detail here. Seven species, all natives of the Peruvian Andes, have been employed in the production of

the modern summer-flowering Tuberous Begonias. Two of these (B. Clarkei and B. Cinnabarina) were introduced into England by E. G. Henderson and five (B. Boliviensis, B Pearcei, B. rosaeflora, B. Veitchii and P. Davisii) by Messrs. Veitch, the first four by their collector, Richard Pearce, in 1865-6. The flowers of all are shades of red, except Pearcei which has bright yellow flowers. The first hybrid Begonia was raised by Messrs. Veitchs employee, John Seden, the result of a cross between Boliviensis and an unnamed Andean species. It flowered in 1869 and was named B. Sedenii.

Working on the seven species mentioned, some eighteen hybrids of sterling merit and many seminal forms were raised by Messrs. Veitch and the foundation of the Begonias of today was well and truly laid. Since then many hybridists and breeders in all part of the world have been engaged on the work of improvement and the result is familiar to every gardener and plant-lover the world over.

The mating by John Heal also an employee of Messrs. Veitch of certain Tuberous Begonias with the curious peltate-leaved B. Socotrana, native of the forbidding and barren island of Socotra in the Indian Ocean, resulted in a race of winter-flowering Begonias of great merit, but not easy to grow. This same B. Socotrana mated with the South African B. Dregei by Lemoine, gave to the world B. Gloire de Lorraine, perhaps the most all-round useful and beautiful Begonia ever raised."

Begonia folks will recognize in the above the species Pearcei as being the source of yellows in the family. Like the English plant-seeker, Douglas, who has left his name on so many California growths, Pearce, also an Englishman, died on an expedition, of fever, at Panama.

ROSECROFT BEGONIA SEED

Now available as premium with new subscriptions to California Garden.

TUBEROUS HANGING BASKET. The entire crop of 1923 which was, however, a light one.

TUBEROUS SINGLE. A fine lot saved from big blooms of good color.

PINK SEA SHELL BEDDER. White-edged pink; very vigorous.

WHITE SEA SHELL. White sport, of the last occuring at Rosecroft; much praised by professionals.

SMALL WHITE with crinkly leaves excellent for hanging baskets; an old variety that has almost been lost.

PINK BORDER. A very superior bedding strain, Gracilis type. The last four can be bedded outside in a sheltered position and will stand considerable sun.

Only one packet with a new subscription. Old subscribers can secure these seed by subscribing for two years or getting a new subscriber.

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Hot Water Service

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This little heater will supply all the hot water you want--for bathing, dish-washing, housework, etc.--within ten or fifteen minutes after the burners are lighted. The water runs, piping hot right to your faucets, thus relieving you of the necessity of carrying a teakettle about.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Under this head California Garden will be pleased to review any publications dealing with garden subjects provided such are deemed worthy and applicable to conditions in the territory it seeks to serve. It will also note specially interesting articles in periodicals with which it exchanges.

Gardening in California, By Sydney B. Mitchell. Doubleday, Page and Co., Garden City, N. Y. This is a real contribution to California garden books, it is written individually, a term used here to differentiate it from mere catalogue class and reads like the author's personal experience. An outstanding merit is starting all processes from the ground or ought it to be said the seed up. It presumes the reader knows nothing and does not insist that the author knows everything. Proceeding from the point of view of the reader's ignorance its matter is carefully arranged so that particular information is easily accessible. There is a dictionary of Annuals, another of Perennials which for California is wisely named the PROBLEM of Perennials. Vines and shrubs have their chapters as have bulbs and the most popular favorites, such as Dahlias, Iris, Gladiolus and Rose, all have separate and peculiar attention. Of course the Garden calendar brings up the rear, the things you should do and when you should do them, and in heartily recommending this book the California Garden hopes many of its readers will get a copy, for it would be so comforting to answer queries with "Consult S. B. M."

The California Garden has received a copy of a Chart of Broadleaved, Evergreen, Flowering Shrubs grown out of doors in California, designed by B. L. Ryan, Landscape Engineer, 2674 McAllister St., San Francisco. It is in the form of a circle, gives in figures and printing season of bloom, Botanical names, height and color of bloom, and in illustration, form and habit of bloom and growth. Sixty kinds are subjected to this close analysis and it should form a very handy guide. It will be on exhibition at The Floral Home, Balboa Park, open every Thursdays, two to four p. m.

GLAD TIDINGS

If troubles beset you in your gardening operations and you wish to goodness there was something that insects or garden pests didn't bother —GROW GLADS.

They are practically impervious to disease and insect pests. True the wire-worm lunches on the bulbs but never to an extent of injuring the blooming qualities. By making successive plantings you can have flowers continually. Don't say you have no room, put them in the shrubbery or along the borders, if you don't wish to make a solid bed of them.

100 good blooming bulbs in three fine shades $3.50. Try planting 100 each month among your other plants and shrubs. You'll have flowers for your own home and some to cut for jealous friends who have no garden.

GOLDEN MEASURE, the very best in a rich golden yellow, grows 4½ to 5 feet in height. It's flowers are well set and many open at a time, edges slightly crinkled, $1.50 each.

MRS. DR. NORTON, La France pink shading into very pale pink throat, lower petals have creamy bases with carmine pencilings. 25c each.

BYRON L. SMITH, a wonderful lavender pink on a white ground. The most delicate and pleasing of color combinations. 25c each.

The three listed just above are well worth the choicest spot in your garden. In their class they are unsurpassed. By all means grow a couple if you wish to delight your sense of beauty.

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CULTIVATED WILD FLOWERS

March is nearly always the month for wild flowers in California. Usually in this month children are bringing in bouquets of shooting-stars, violets, forget-me-nots, wild onion, brown-eyed susan, evening primrose, blue and white lilacs and a score of other varieties. In fact all those mentioned and a dozen more are normally in bloom by Valentine's Day. And in years when we get good rains in late October and November I have picked large bouquets of wild flowers on New Year's Day. But this season the usual winter rains have failed and there are no wild flowers to speak of near the city.

In a season of drought like this one to date (February 14) the seeds of most wild flowers do not even germinate. They lie in the soil for a year or more until a season of sufficient rainfall. This habit of sleeping through a season is a characteristic of annuals in arid or semi-arid regions. It is most strikingly evident on the Colorado and Mohave deserts. There rain often fails to fall insufficient quantities in certain localities for one years or several years in succession. In these years scarcely an annual plant will be seen. Let a wet season come and the ground will be carpeted with rosy sandverbenas, white evening primroses, chias, desert sunflowers, gilias and a host of others. To a less extent the same phenomenon is seen on the San Diego mesas. I have known seasons in which on certain tracts not a single yellow daisy or pentachaeta, or cream-cup, canchalagua or golden tarweed could be seen. The next season, perhaps, being rainy you could not step without treading on a score of plants.

I do not mean, of course, that all wild flowers are still asleep. Some spring up with the slightest rainfall and if the supply is meager they grow into tiny starved plants. Filaree plants, for example, have come up everywhere. I have seen little stunted cream-cups or tidy-tips that have put forth one single bloom and made one single seed as the plant's entire seasonal contribution. Last year I noted yellow tarweed plants only three inches high beside dry stalks of the wet season of 1922 which were three feet tall. No doubt by searching far and wide in favored situations one might find a stray shootingstar or dentaria. Several miles inland where more rain has fallen you might even pick a bouquet. The only flowers I have seen at this writing are the lemonade berry, a deep-rooted shrub and white sprays of chilicothe whose runners have come up from a large fleshy root stored with enough food and water to last through the dryest season.

The pitiful scarcity of wild flowers this season makes one emphasize certain aspects of wild flower lore. It is surely a good year to teach conservation. When the land is smothered with blossoms it may seem to children and to some grown-ups foolish to talk about restraint in picking bouquets. But in a year when violets and shootingstars are scare it will be easier to appeal to children to enjoy them where they grow in their natural setting and leave them for others to enjoy and to drop the few seeds they can produce at best for another season. After all conservation is for the child. It is a lesson in self control. It is a training in usefulness. Last year I saw some children in the little park near the Grant school diligently searching for every violet blossom they could spy. Each child already had a fist full. I said: "Aren't you going to leave a single blossom for me to see or to go to seed?" They wondered at my strange talk. Perhaps you do not know, but I and many old residents know where violets and shooting-stars used to cover acres in Balboa Park. Though these places are still uncultivated you can scarcely find a plant growing there now.

This would have been a good year to urge the planting of wild flowers if we had thought about it earlier. Many species of California wild flowers have become popular in other countries and are as easily cultivated as old garden favorites. Indeed English people cultivate dozens of our wild flowers such as wild heliotrope, poppy, cream-cups, gilia, baby-blue-eyes, lupine, farewell-to-spring, clarkia, mariposa lily and others. Many species of our blue and white lilacs are grown under the name of "mountain sweet." After several years of planting wild flowers I found that it is a mistake to scatter seeds and leave them to compete with weeds like fox-tail, pigweed and malva. They may hold their own fairly well the first season, but the next season they will practically disappear if you expect them to seed themselves. They should be given the same care as other garden flowers. Varieties easiest grown are California poppy, fare-well-to-spring, clarkia, wild heliotrope (phacelia) and bird's eye and bule gilis in sunny places and in shady situations baby-blue-eyes and collinsia. After getting a bed of California poppies started they are almost as easy to maintain as sweet alyssum because they come up from perennial roots every spring, grow rapidly and compete with ordinary weeds. I suppose that when most of our charming wild flowers have disappeared near the city we will cultivate them more. Surely we will have some plots in Balboa Park planted to the wildings that used to flourish there. These plots will be labeled: "To be seen only—not pulled up by the roots."—Carroll de Wilton Scott, in Nature and Geography.

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